

Figure 2.66

Winter Park Ski Area Geographic Area

13,245 NFS Acres 399 Non-NFS Acres 13,643 Total Acres

Management Area Prescription Allocation

1.3 - Backcountry Recreation

4.2 - Scenery

4.3 - Dispersed Recreation

8.22 - Ski Based Resorts - Existing and Potential

NFS Acres

852

1,363

2,586

8,444

Legend

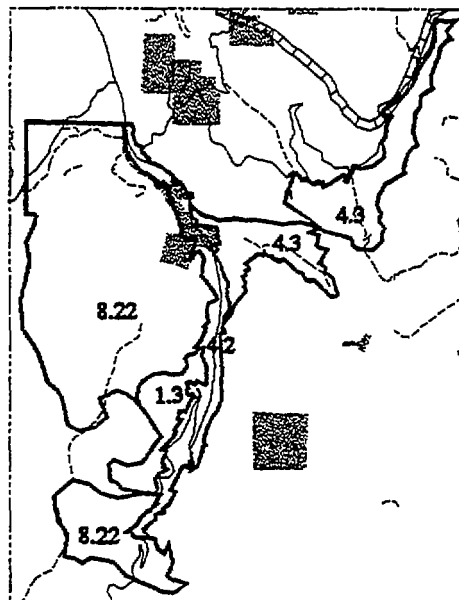
■ Not NFS
Lands

— Roads

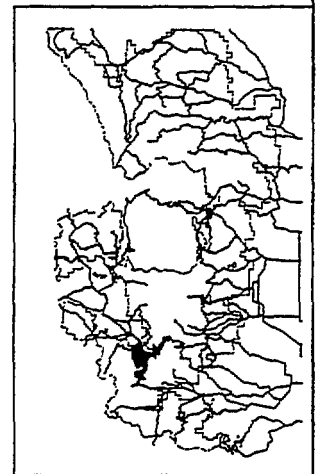
— Trails

Utility Corridors (0.20 Mi.)

• Electronic
Sites



Locator Map



Scale 1:200,000
0 1
Miles



WINTER PARK GEOGRAPHIC AREA

Setting

The area is located approximately 1 mile south of the Town of Winter Park, and includes 13,645 acres, of which 440 acres are private inholdings. Elevations vary from 12,391 feet at the top of Russell Peak to 8,950 feet along U.S. Highway 40. Most of the area is forested with lodgepole pine, subalpine fir, Engelmann spruce and aspen. Alpine meadows and tundra occur above timberline along ridges and peaks. The major streams are Little Vasquez, Zero, First, Second, Current, and Parsenn Creeks and the Fraser River. Zero, First, Second, and Currant Creeks drainages are characterized by open cirques with large wetlands below; the creeks originate from these wetlands and branch several times before reaching the Fraser River. These drainages are very popular with winter recreationists who use them for backcountry skiing.

The City of Denver owns and operates the Winter Park/Mary Jane Ski Areas under special use permit. Ski area development includes 20 lifts, over 1,300 acres of skiable terrain, and several on-area mountain restaurants. Summer activities include an alpine slide, outdoor concerts, mini-golf, mountain biking, and other recreational events and festivals.

Goals and Desired Conditions

Continue managing Winter Park Ski Area (WPSA) as a premier, four-season resort. Issue and administer a 40-year term permit to Winter Park Ski Area. Review for approval WPSA's updated Master Development Plan for facility reconstruction and expansion. Permit development and use that is compatible with the environment, although the area will continue to look like a large resort with many runs cut through the forest. The private land at the base of the ski area will be developed to enhance the resort's desirability as a destination resort.

Update and implement the Winter Park Ski Area Vegetation Management Plan to pursue overall improvement of vegetation at the area. A full range of silvicultural and harvest practices may be utilized, but logging occurs only on an irregular, opportunity- or need-driven basis. Only portions of the area designated in the Vegetation Management Plan or designated for expansion by Winter Park Ski Area will be affected. Harvest is utilized only to meet ski area objectives. Harvesting will occur on tentatively suitable, not available, and on unsuitable lands as long as allowed by management area prescriptions and forestwide standards and guidelines.

Manage Winter Park Ski Area's summer mountain-bike program for heavy use as a national mountain-biking destination.

Utilize the Corona Area Implementation Plan to support economic development and growth of the area and to increase administrative efficiency through landownership adjustments.

Manage Zero, First, Second, and Currant Creeks to preserve nonmotorized, dispersed

recreational opportunities without altering the primitive nature of the area. Retain the cabins in First, Second, and Current Creek drainages as long as they are managed under permit with an outside agent; the cabins may be destroyed if management reverts back to the Forest Service because of budget and liability considerations. Develop an interpretive program that emphasizes the avalanche dangers inherent to these drainages and the summer uniqueness of the area's high alpine environment. Manage access to the area's backcountry ski terrain by establishing gates and appropriate signing along the Winter Park Ski Area permit boundary. Maintain the open terrain, trailless character of the area.

Pursue opportunities to improve conditions in the Fraser River watershed, which was rated Class III (non-functional) in the watershed-condition assessment. Protect and enhance habitat for Colorado River cutthroat trout in Little Vasquez Creek.

Manage the increasing demand for special-use permits for a variety of recreational activities in Winter Park.

Fire management prescriptions for the geographic area are shown on the *wildland fire management strategy map* included in this document.

Travel Management Strategy, Winter Park Geographic Area

| Management Area | Mode | Existing System | Convert Ways | New Rds/Trls | Extent of Additions | Extent of Obliteration |
|-----------------|------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1.3 | 4WD | N | N | N | N | N |
| | MTR | N | N | N | N | N |
| | WMT | N | N | N | N | N |
| | WNM | Y | N | N | N | N |
| | NMT | Y | N | N | N | N |
| 4.2 | 4WD | N | N | N | N | L |
| | MTR | N | N | N | N | N |
| | WMT | N | N | N | N | N |
| | WNM | N | N | N | N | N |
| | NMT | N | N | N | N | N |
| 4.3 | 4WD | Y | N | N | N | N |
| | MTR | N | N | N | N | N |
| | WMT | Y | N | N | N | N |
| | WNM | Y | N | N | N | N |
| | NMT | Y | N | N | N | N |

| Management Area | Mode | Existing System | Convert Ways | New Rds/Trls | Extent of Additions | Extent of Obliteration |
|-----------------|------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| 8.22 | 4WD | Y | N | Y | L | H |
| | MTR | N | N | N | N | N |
| | WMT | Y | N | Y | L | N |
| | WNM | Y | N | Y | H | N |
| | NMT | Y | N | Y | H | L |